

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /086 W

-----127311 151224Z /14

R 150645Z NOV 77

FM AMCONSUL MEDAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 766

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEDAN 0438

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PINT, ECON, ID

SUBJ SUDOMO PAYS SURPRISE VISIT TO BELAWAN

REF MEDAN 0431

1. LONG-ANTICIPATED VISIT TO NORTH SUMATRA BY OPERATION ORDER CHIEF ADMIRAL SUDOMO FINALLY MATERIALIZED NOVEMBER 15 WHEN THE ADMIRAL, ACCOMPANIED BY DEPUTY PANGKOWILHAN/I SUKOTJO, BREEZED INTO THE PORT OF BELAWAN AT MID-DAY TO INVESTIGATE CUSTOMS PROCEDURES.

VISIT RECEIVED HEAVY PRESS PLAY, WITH MOST PAPERS HEADLINING SUDOMO'S UNEQUIVOCAL ASSERTION THAT ILLEGAL LEVIES ("PUNGLI") WERE RIFE AT THE PORT, A CHARGE DENIED BY SUMALI, CHIEF OF THE FIRST CUSTOMS DISTRICT. SUDOMO REPORTEDLY GAVE SUMALI ONE MONTH TO REGULARIZE OPERATIONS AT BELAWAN OR FACE THE PROSPECT OF LOSING HIS JOB.

2. CONSULATE OFFICER, WHO HAPPENED TO BE AT PORT DURING SUDOMO VISIT, NOTED AN ATMOSPHERE OF GENERAL PANIC AMONG CUSTOMS OFFICIALS, MOST OF WHOM APPEARED TO BE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING UNDER WHICH TO HIDE. CONSULATE'S FREIGHT FORWARDER, WHOSE WAREHOUSE WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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TOURED BY THE ADMIRAL AND WHO ACCOMPANIED THE PARTY DURING ONE PORTION OF INSPECTION, STATED SUDOMO TREATED SUMALI IN A VERY DEMEANING FASHION, FORCING SUMALI AT ONE POINT TO ADMIT HE COULD NOT CONTROL HIS SUBORDINATES. (FYI: HE PROBABLY CANNOT. SUMALI HAS BEEN IN HIS PRESENT POSITION ONLY TWO MONTHS. HE INHERITED THE JOB FROM A PREDECESSOR REPORTEDLY SO INCOMPETENT AND VENAL THAT, EVEN WITH THE BEST OF INTENTIONS, SUMALI WOULD HAVE HAD A

DIFFICULT CHORE RESTORING ORDER TO PORT OPERATIONS. END FYI.)

3. SUDOMO TODAY IS TO VISIT THE PROVINCE OFFICE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, THE EXCISE TAX OFFICE AND THE REGIONAL ENTERPRISE BOARD (PDPSU).

THE PDPSU, WHICH CONTROLS 33 ENTERPRISES EXPORPRIATED FROM THE DUTCH, IS AT THE CENTER OF A FINANCIAL SCANDEL INVOLVING, AMONG OTHERS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PROVINCIAL CHANGER OF COMMERCE, FATHI SIREGAR.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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